

AETC News Clips



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23 Oct 01

Reservists inspired by call-up

The 433rd is proud to be part of team

By SIG CHRISTENSON
EXPRESS-NEWS MILITARY WRITER

When he recently left USAA to serve full time in the Air Force Reserve, Capt. "Mike" lost the \$12,000 a year he had earned as a part-time officer with the 433rd Airlift Wing.

But the captain, whose last name was withheld by the Air Force Reserve for security reasons, said he doesn't mind losing the money because he has gained something more valuable: pride.

Capt. Mike is one of the more than 1,000 reservists with the 433rd who were called to active duty last week.

Reservists who were dealing with such thorny issues as problem pregnancies and financial hardships as the call-up began have shown "incredible dedication and commitment," Capt. Mike said.

"I've been very impressed with the ramp-up we went through and the motivation that our members have had," he said. "This is trying. You hit all aspects of the transition — financial, physical and social."

In a move long expected by observers, the Pentagon last week turned to the 433rd as commanders ordered up to 1,082 reservists — about a third of the wing's strength — to active duty. Their tour could last two years.

The wing has 16 giant C-5 airlifters in its inventory and



PIECZYNSKI

flies cargo to bases around the world. The wing has been involved in many Pentagon campaigns and missions of mercy, among them the Persian Gulf War and relief for Hondurans after the 1998 flood caused by Hurricane Mitch.

The 433rd's call-up was the largest yet for reservists in the Alamo City area, but tens of thousands of National Guard and Air Force Reserve troops have been ordered to active duty since the Sept. 11 terror attacks. Among those were more than 400 Texas National Guardsmen, who were recently assigned to protect 26 airports in the state.

Morale among the reservists so far is high, and there have been no reports of employers firing or disciplining workers ordered to serve with the wing, said Brig. Gen. Bernard J. Pieczynski, the 433rd's commander.

Spirits are so high, he told reporters Monday, that one reservist, recovering from a broken back sustained in a motorcycle accident, came to the Lackland AFB headquarters ready to work.

"For a lot of us who were Vietnam War veterans and

served in Vietnam and served in the Persian Gulf, this is a totally different thing," Pieczynski said.

He called the terrorist strikes "an attack on our basic human dignity" that has brought out the best in reservists, their families and employers.

"Morale is sky high, the people are pumped, and they're not only ready to serve, they're inspired," he added.

A group of two dozen or so reservists, many of them wearing beige masking tape over the name tags of their camouflage uniforms to protect their identities, echoed Pieczynski's comments.

"I have not truly heard any whining or even griping about being called up," said Master Sgt. "Danny," 54, of Bandera County.

Maj. "Wanda" shared that sentiment.

"This is what we trained for," said the 41-year-old San Antonio schoolteacher and mother of three. "It is an honor to serve our country."

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Express-News: Military

This Thanksgiving brings special needs for the area's military.

By Scott Huddleston

San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 10/23/2001 12:00 AM

As San Antonians prepare for Halloween, others are looking ahead, with plans to feed about 3,000 members of the armed services who will have no place to go for Thanksgiving.

Action in Afghanistan is expected to keep most U.S. military troops from getting holiday leave. Two installations here are proceeding with annual programs that send trainees to local homes for Thanksgiving.

"The trick is not to run out of soldiers and have families waiting," said Maj. Bart Physioc, a chaplain at Fort Sam Houston. Last year, 337 sponsoring households fed about 700 soldiers.

Lackland AFB has a similar program that last year sent 2,200 trainees to local homes.

Feeding the troops is a weekly event for one former soldier and his wife who run Home Away from Home, a small, Christian ministry near Randolph AFB.

"There has never been a need on this massive a scale," said Hilde Sutton, who normally cooks for dozens of active-duty and former military personnel and civilian singles each Wednesday night.

Her husband, Kyle, is president of a fledgling Christian ministry that tries to help unmarried and divorced civilians and military personnel. He



Kyle Sutton plays with his 9-month-old son, Caleb Phin, with an approving eye from wife Hilde. Below, Airman 1st class Cristina Hemenway serves herself during Wednesday night dinner at the Hilde and Kyle Sutton home, a restored 1890s farmhouse. The Suttons started a ministry, Home Away from Home, which serves military personnel. Photos by Jerry Lara/Express-News



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recently was laid off from a computer job.

Still, the Suttons hope to stage a Thanksgiving feast for about 300 airmen, soldiers and Marines from local installations and recruiting centers.

Even as he searches for work, Kyle Sutton can remember Christmas 1989. He was 19, single and stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., with nowhere to call home.

"It's a very lonely feeling," he recalled.

The all-volunteer ministry has secured the use of a church for the feast and donation of giant screens for TV football games.

Sutton, now with a lead on a job in Denver, remains determined to serve as many military personnel as possible this Thanksgiving. "even if I have to have people over at my house."

"What I really hope to do is bring together people who make connections for a lifetime, not just a meal," he said Monday.

The former infantryman reached a milestone in 1995 when the Army chose him to train as a Special Forces medic. But Sutton hungered for spiritual knowledge.

"I found myself sitting in a (Army) classroom, learning about the vascular system, with an open Bible sitting in my lap," he said. He requested, and received, an honorable discharge so he could start the ministry.

The ministry received tax-exempt status in March, and feeds students and airmen at the couple's restored 1890s farmhouse on Wednesday nights. A Bible study session in a renovated barn nearby usually follows.

"I don't know about all this Bible stuff, but the people are cool," Jonathan Smith, 30, recalled saying last year when a friend dragged him to the ministry to help him deal with a messy divorce. Now, the former National Guardsman says he's a born-again Christian.

The Suttons patterned their ministry after one in Darmstadt, Germany, which they credit with saving their marriage. From 1991-94, they received counseling to cope with bouts of separation.

"Kyle was gone all the time," on reconnaissance missions, his wife, a civilian, said. "I never knew what country he was in."

They now have a 9-month-old son and the challenge of giving him a stable home. But they still want to do something for the military this Thanksgiving.

"The military is a hard life. We know," Hilde Sutton said.

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OUR TURN

Protecting freedom remains full of risks

Although no Americans have been killed fighting in Afghanistan, three U.S. servicemen have died in accidents related to the war effort.

Two American soldiers were killed when a helicopter crashed Friday in Pakistan, about 50 miles from Afghanistan where U.S. bombing strikes and special forces raids are under way.

The first American death occurred Oct. 10 when a serviceman was killed in a forklift accident in Qatar while working in the war effort.

Americans are likely to die in combat as the war against the Taliban, Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida moves to a ground phase in Afghanistan. The actions of U.S. special operations are risk-filled.

But nothing less than freedom is at stake.

President Bush struck the right tone over the weekend when responding to the American deaths.

"These soldiers will not have died in vain. This is a just cause," the Associated Press quoted Bush as saying.

Any American deaths are hard to accept, as are those of Afghan civilians accidentally killed by off-target U.S. bombs.

But the United States has been forced into this war by the bin Laden network's savage attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, which killed more than 5,000 innocent Americans.

Three U.S. servicemen have died in war-related accidents, and more casualties are likely.

Bin Laden has celebrated those deaths as part of the war he has declared on the United States in previous attacks on Americans. He has promised more terrorism and urged his followers to kill Americans.

The U.S. war on terrorism is self-defense, and it is necessary to protect Americans and free people around the world.

As painful and tragic as more deaths will be, the United States must stay the course. Protecting freedom against murderous, aggressive extremists is difficult.

Completing the mission against terrorism is the best way to honor the American casualties who give their lives for freedom and this nation.

U.S. military leaders have worked hard to avoid civilian casualties in Afghanistan, and they should continue to do so.

The food drops to hungry Afghani citizens show the United States' commitment to helping civilians trapped in the hellish situation created by the Taliban warlords and the terrorists they harbor.



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THE RECRUITS

Armed Forces Stress Careers, Not Current War

By DAVID W. CHEN
New York Times

Before Sept. 11, this is what a typical day was like for Sgt. Randy A. Robinson of the Air Force: Visit high schools in Brooklyn and talk to students. Visit local businesses and distribute Air Force brochures. Make phone calls to potential recruits late into the evening. Since Sept. 11, this is what a typical day has been like for Sergeant Robinson: Visit high schools in Brooklyn and talk to students. Visit Local businesses and distribute Air Force brochures. Make phone calls to potential recruits late into the evening. "It's just business as usual," Sergeant Robinson says. "We don't push the Help our country' routine." As Americans contemplate the likelihood of a broader war against terrorism, it might seem logical that military recruiters would change their sales pitch in order to tap into a surge of patriotic fervor. And yet just the opposite has been true: in all of the armed services, recruiters have been pretty much sticking to their scripts in trying to persuade young men and women to join the military, not in order to fight the current war, but to make a career choice. "Some people come in and say, 'I want to fight!' and I've got to calm them down," Sergeant Robinson says. "We're not all about fighting and bombing. We're about jobs. We're about education." In many ways, a day spent with a recruiter like Sergeant Robinson is similar to a day spent with a recruiter for any of the armed services in any part of the country, at any time of the school year. A native of Virginia Beach, Sergeant Robinson, 35, starts his day at 7:30 a.m. at his office in Flatbush. A compact, muscular man, he stocks his bulky briefcase with memos and souvenirs like plastic coffee mugs, calendars and T-shirts. He pulls out a stack of business cards. "You've got to have these," he says cheerily. "We're salespeople." The first destination is Erasmus Hall High School, near his office. But his contact at the school is out at a meeting. There is heightened security; his visit cannot proceed. Still, when a school official suggests that he just drop off his materials, Sergeant Robinson declines. Recruiting, he says, requires patience, trust and time. "We don't do drive-through recruiting," he says. "We want to do it one on one." The Air Force is open to men and women from the ages of 17 (with parental consent) to 28, but for Sergeant Robinson, the target audience is overwhelmingly young, minority and immigrant. So, after leaving Erasmus Hall, the sergeant walks around the neighborhood in what the Air Force calls "zonal awareness": looking for businesses or locales frequented by young people. He finds two promising leads: a Lucille Roberts gym and Diplomat Lanes, a bowling alley. The gym makes sense because 60 percent of his recruits are women. And the bowling alley is good, too, because a new high school bowling league is about to begin in two weeks. Sergeant Robinson's next stop is Automotive High School in Greenpoint, and he is accompanied by Sgt. Paula Thomas, who just began recruiting on Sept. 4, and their boss, Sgt. James Sutton Jr. Together with school officials, they discuss coming programs to promote the Air Force. In general, Sergeant Robinson has found that students are more receptive toward the military than they were before Sept. 11. They ask more questions and appear more engaged in current events. As with the other armed services, this has not necessarily translated into more recruits; it is still too early to tell. But it is a good foundation, he says. Sergeant Robinson usually interviews candidates in the afternoon, but the candidates have canceled. No matter. There is plenty to do. At 4 p.m., Sergeant Robinson and his recruiting partner, Sgt.

David Vazquez, welcome a group of about 20 young men and women who have passed the written and physical tests to join the Air Force, and are awaiting orders to begin basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. The meeting is one part pep rally, one part information session. But he also talks about the current crisis. "You know what's going on with the threat," Sergeant Robinson tells the group. "It's no secret. As New Yorkers and as military people, watch your back." Afghanistan is on many a recruit's mind. One recruit, Alex Wong, 20, says that when the terrorists attacked the World Trade Center, "the first thing I did was call and see if I could go now." (No, he still has to wait.) But another, Reggie Presume, 27, who has a 3-year-old daughter, says that "after Sept. 11, I had some doubts, and my family was worried." But, he said, "I didn't want what bin Laden was doing to affect my life." At 7 p.m., Sergeant Robinson is still talking to the recruits, and he plans to make phone calls for three hours. He says recruiting is a continuing process. His boss, Sergeant Sutton, says that once, on the New Jersey Turnpike, he handed his business card to a tollbooth clerk. The clerk later called him. She is now in the Air Force.

ENJJPT looks to its future

NATO pilot program
celebrates 20 years

John Ingle

Times Record News

One T-37 Tweet flew overhead with one T-38 Talon on each wing, symbolizing a passing of the old as Col. Ralph Jodice II spoke of the future of the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program.

Following 20 successful years as the only base in the world that trains pilots from 13 different nations, the mission of the alliance would not change, Jodice said at a news conference held Friday at the base.

"And as we tackle today's war on terrorism around the globe," Jodice said, "NATO- and ENJJPT-trained pilots are again on the tip of the spear."

As ENJJPT flies into its next 20 years, it will do so with two different aircraft. The T-37 Tweet will be replaced by the T-6 Texan II while the AT-

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38 and T-38 Talon will merge into the T-38C.

Brig. Gen. Tore Arestol, chair of the steering committee that guides the program, said the new T-6 would begin to be used in 2005.

Arestol, a longtime alliance officer, is set to retire from the Norwegian air force at the end of October.

Other items discussed during the weeklong steering committee meetings were cost and the future of the program.

Arestol said the program has already been invested in, so the cost wasn't that much of a factor. One of the largest costs the program will have to deal with is when the new aircraft begin to show up on the flight line.

Thirteen of the 19 NATO nations are actively involved in the program, but Arestol was optimistic others would join the alliance.

One nation that has considered pulling its pilots from the program is Spain, but Jodice said two Spanish pilots graduated from the most recent class on Oct. 19. Jodice said the program has about six Spanish pilots in the program each year.

Although both men

spoke highly of the program, they agreed the program couldn't afford to get into a comfort zone and accept the status quo.

"We will proceed with small steps," Jodice said, "but the program will continue to evolve. As with any successful program, you can't let it remain stagnant."

The program is far from stagnant.

The newest graduating class of 30 pilots will add to the 4,489 pilots produced by the program. Jodice said the future of those pilots looks bright.

But the future of the alliance isn't just about the future of the program. Jodice said the cooperation of surrounding communities and Texoma in general has benefited and would continue to benefit from the continuation of the program.

"This program would not enjoy its great success without the tremendous support of the entire region that allows the full integration of all members of ENJJPT and their families into the local communities," Jodice said.

Police reporter John Ingle may be contacted at (940) 763-7533 or by e-mail at inglej@wtr.com.

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Cities celebrate 'Abrazo'

ALEJANDRA VALDEZ

Staff Writer

The 41st annual "Abrazo," the traditional embrace between dignitaries of the sister cities of Del Rio and Ciudad Acuña, took place Friday at Amistad Dam.

The International Good Neighbor Council Fiesta de Amistad abrazo is a tradition that began on Oct. 24, 1960 when Mexico President Adolfo Lopez Mateos and United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a treaty for the construction of what is now Amistad Dam. An embrace between the two presidents was the first of many between dignitaries of the lands on either side of the Rio Grande.

Masters of Ceremony were Norma Garcia of Cd. Acuña and Sergio Diaz of Del Rio. Each represented their city's IGNC. The ceremony for the symbolic gesture of friendship was in both English and Spanish.

The presentation of both the American and Mexican flags is traditionally alternated between the countries. The first flag presented is the flag of the country in which that year's International Amistad Parade began. This year the honor went to the United States.

The posting of the colors was done by the Del Rio High School AFJROTC Color Guard. The National Anthem was played by the Del Rio Middle School Band under the direction of Jesse Brijalba.

Mexico's flag was posted by the Escuela Secundaria Hermanos Flores Magon. Mexico's National Anthem was performed by the Municipal Band of Cd. Acuña under the direction of Professor Juan Lombrana.

Before the traditional abrazo, the mayors of the sister cities, Del Rio Mayor Dora G. Alcalá and Cd. Acuña Municipal President (Mayor) Jose Eduardo Ramon, signed documents sealing their commitment to the friendship between both cities.

The signing of the documents was followed by performances by the Del Rio High School AFJROTC Blue Tops, the Ballet Folklórico de Torreon and the AFJROTC Drill Team.

An introduction was then made of the mayors and their spouses. Alcalá and her husband Alfonso and Ramon and his wife Diana Raquel Salame walked to the designated place under the eagle statues and met for the abrazo.

Following suit were IGNC

Presidents Luis Valdez and wife Englantina of Del Rio and Professor Carlos Lara and wife Maria del Socorro Moreno.

Mr. Amistad Pete P. Gallego, Ms. Amistad Martha Mendoza were presented.

47th Flying Training Wing Commander Col. Rick Rosborg, of Laughlin Air Force Base met Mexico's Diplomat of the Estado Mayor, Brigadier General Jose Luis Ramon Velazco Guillen, commander of the Mexican Army Garrison in Cd. Acuña for the embrace. Both military men saluted each other and shook hands before the abrazo.

The IGNC Miss Del Rio Katie Sutherland and Cd. Acuña's Señorita Amistad Ana Laura Palacios and their courts met for the abrazo.

Among the many other dignitaries to meet with their counterparts was Mexican Consul Lic. Roberto Canseco and American Consul Thomas H. Armbruster. Immigration and Naturalization Services Port Director Ralph Traslaviña met Mexico's immigration services representative Lic. Gerardo Antonio Garcia Castro.

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U.S. Customs Port Director Ralph Sinclair met Mexican Customs Lic. Jorge Eduardo Ornelas Aguilar. Del Rio Police Chief Manuel Herrera met Cd. Acuña Chief of Police Manuel Menchaca Flores.

With an eye on the future, children from Del Rio and Cd. Acuña met for the abrazo as a demonstration of good neighbors and friendships to come.

Immediately following the Abrazo ceremony was the Mayor's Reception. The reception took place at the Mesquite Room at the Del Rio Civic Center. Entertainment was provided by Voces y Guitarras.

Texas State Representative District 74, Pete Gallego was presented with a plaque from IGNC commemorating his naming as Mr. Amistad 2001. Making the presentation was IGNC President Luis Valdez and Alcalá. Ms. Amistad 2001 Martha Mendoza was presented a plaque from IGNC at the coronation of Señorita Amistad 2001 which took place in Ciudad Acuña on Oct. 12.

To continue with the Fiesta de Amistad festivities, the Pecan Room at the Del Rio Civic Center was preparing for the International Ball to take place immediately after the Mayor's Reception. Performing was Tejano star Patsy Torres, who won "Best Female Performance in a Video" from Texas Tejano Music Awards for her latest video, "Chiquitita." Torres has been named one of the "Top Female Tejano Stars" by *Billboard* magazine while being described by *Latin Style* magazine as "the sound of the future."

The IGNC International Ball raises funds for scholarships.



News-Herald photo by Alejandra Valdez

Following a tradition set more than 40 years ago by the presidents of Mexico and the United States, Laughlin Air Force Base's Wing Commander, Col. Rick Rosborg saluted, and shook hands with Cd. Acuña's Mexican Army Garrison Commander, Brig. Gen. Jose Luis Ramon Velazco Guillen.

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Cd. Acuña Municipal President Jose Eduardo Ramon and Del Rio Mayor Dora G. Alcala met for the 41st Annual Abrazo at Amistad Dam Friday afternoon. The mayors signed a renewal of their commitment to the friendship between the sister cities.

News-Herald photo by Arzanda Valdez



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Powder was laundry detergent

KAREN GLEASON

Staff Writer

White powder found at the Bedell Avenue Post Office Wednesday morning was laundry detergent, city officials announced Thursday.

Del Rio Mayor Dora Alcalá Thursday afternoon called her second press conference in as many days to disseminate the results of tests performed on a suspicious white powder found on the floor of the post office's workroom.

Alcalá had promised during her press conference Wednesday she would share the test results as soon as they became available.

Alcalá said, "I feel that it's better to say a little too much and saturate the public with good news than not to say anything at all. I think it's better for our citizens to be informed."

The mayor said officials Wednesday "were 99 percent sure the powdery substance found at the post office was not anything to worry about," but wanted to be absolutely certain before making an announcement.

"It was determined that the white powder was a detergent-type substance that had been sent through the mail because it had been ordered by a private citizen," Alcalá told the half-dozen reporters from local print, radio and Internet media assembled in council chambers at Del Rio City Hall Thursday afternoon.

"At another time and another place, this powder would have just been cleaned up without a second thought, but today things are different. After September 11, things will never be the same. We have to be careful and we have to be alert," Alcalá said.

During the press conference, the mayor was flanked by Val Verde County Sheriff A. D'Wayne Jernigan, Del Rio Police Chief Manuel "Manny" Herrera and Del Rio City Manager Rafael Castillo Jr.

The mayor also announced that the results of tests on a suspicious powder found in one of two letters were negative.

Castillo, in response to a question, said the letters were sent to the Texas Department of Health (TDH) laboratory in San Antonio.

Additional tests will be performed at the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, he said. Preliminary tests on the white powder found at the post office were performed at Val Verde Regional Medical Center.

The mayor said the TDH facility in San Antonio has been so inundated with requests for testing that it will only notify those agencies whose items tested positive.

"They're telling us that no news is good news," Alcalá said.

But the mayor, at the urging of the city manager, did not comment on the second letter, other than to say it is still being tested. She would only say that she would publicize the test results as soon as they were returned to the city.

Alcalá also profusely praised Laughlin Air Force Base and 47th Flying Training Wing Commander Col. Rick Rosborg.

"We are very fortunate to have the base and its hazardous materials response capabilities so close by," Alcalá said. "Col. Rosborg called me as soon as he knew there was a problem (at the post office). They took action immediately, and they have assured me they will respond in the future whenever we need them."

Alcalá also said she believed the city's emergency services response to the Bedell Avenue Post Office incident Wednesday did not overtax the ability of the city to respond and deal with other emergencies.

Questions then turned from the mayor to the two lawmen accompanying her to the press conference.

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Jernigan was questioned about the hoaxer the sheriff's office had jailed Wednesday night, and Herrera was asked whether hoaxers caught by city police could expect similar treatment. Jernigan said the man arrested by sheriff's deputies for a hoax at a local trucking and customs warehouse remained in police custody. Jernigan said 35-year-old Jesus Eduardo Urbano had been charged with felony terroristic threat. Urbano had been brought before a magistrate Thursday morning and his bond set at \$5,000.

"But the Immigration and Naturalization Service has put a detainer on him, so even if he is able to make bond, he won't be released," Jernigan said.

Urbano is a Mexican national living in the United States on permanent resident alien status.

Herrera said hoaxers caught by Del Rio Police could expect the same treatment. "This will not be tolerated," the chief said.

"If you insist on perpetrating hoaxes on the public in Val Verde County, you're going to jail," Jernigan said.

Added the mayor, "This is no time to make jokes."



File photo

Mayor Dora G. Alcala stated at Thursday's press conference, that, "This is no time to make jokes."

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Ozuna gives overview of counseling program

BRIAN ARGABRIGHT

Staff Writer

The school district's counseling program was the focus of a presentation given by Ann Ozuna during Monday's regularly scheduled school board meeting.

Ozuna, director of instructional support for the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District, explained to the board what the role of the counselor is, what changes need to be made to help the counseling department and how the counseling department will evolve to better help students.

"School counselors are valued for the help they do and for the guidance they bring to students," said Ozuna. "To continue to provide that help, a school district must develop a comprehensive, high quality counseling program."

Ozuna said counselors need to focus on academic achievement and education planning, career exploration and planning and personal and social development. To help them achieve their goals, Ozuna said counselors have implemented several different programs at the secondary and elementary levels, such as career day, to help students become interested in a profession after they complete school.

But Ozuna said the counseling department must not cater to any one type of student and the diversity of students that are helped is important.

"If a counseling program is well developed and well designed, then that means there is something in there for every student," said Ozuna.

Ozuna also said counselors are trained to address special needs for students, such as performing crisis interference with students to help them in their personal, as well as educational, well being.

Ozuna said the school district's counselors keep a log of their meetings with students and if they discover a student may be in trouble at home, or something more severe, they will call in a principal to help find a solution that is in the best interests of the student.

When asked if the counselors at each school work with every child, Ozuna said it is difficult to work with each child individually, but counselors have found other ways to increase the number of students they are able to see.

"I don't feel that you can call every child in every year and give them every piece of information they are going to need," said Ozuna. "That's why the counselors work with groups of children, to get more information out to more stu-

dents."

Ozuna said her counselors need more time within the day to see students. To increase the time they have to work with, Ozuna said, counselors must reduce the time spent on non-guidance activities.

"We must get away from these activities, such as substituting for teachers or being put on permanent bus or lunch duty, which could last upwards of two hours," said Ozuna.

Ozuna said that even though the counselors have been able to respond to whatever has been thrown their way, there is still areas for improvement.

"At the present time, this district does not have a defined curriculum for counselors," said Ozuna. "In order to implement a quality-based counseling program, it can take as much as three years."

Another problem lies in the understaffing of the counseling department. Ozuna said the recommended ratio for students to counselors should be 350 to 1.

Ozuna said the ratio is met at the high school; but there are only two counselors at Del Rio Middle School and only one

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and a half counselors that serve both the seventh and sixth grade campuses.

Despite some changes that need to be made, Ozuna is confident in her counselors and feels the potential is there for the SFDRCISD counseling program to be a model program in the future.

"Our counselors have had to work with students during the flood and, more recently, the Sept. 11 attacks and I believe the counselors at the high school handled it all very well," said Ozuna. "I believe that here in Del Rio, we can develop a high quality program to support you, the administration, and within a couple of years, people will come to Del Rio to see our program."

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United Way campaign kicks off

The Del Rio-Val Verde United Way Board and pace-setter representatives recently met for breakfast at Luby's Cafeteria. This breakfast marked the kick-off of the citywide United Way Campaign.

The campaign goal is set at \$140,000 and will help support 18 local agencies. Those agencies are the American Red Cross - Del Rio Service Center, Amistad Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center, Bethel Center, Clinica de Inmigracion de San Jose, C.A.R.T./Club 180, Concho Valley Council Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls Club of Del Rio, the Del Rio Council for the Arts, El Camino Girl Scout Council, Friends of Family Support Center, Friends of Hospice, LAFB Child Development Center, LAFB Youth Center, Quad Counties Council on Alcohol and Drug

Abuse, Salvation Army, Val Verde County Child Welfare Board, Val Verde Safe Kids/VVCAPS and Val Verde Training Center.

United Way board members thanked Scott Knight, manager of Luby's for his support.

For more information about how to contribute to the United Way campaign and the local agencies it supports, please call Cheri Green at 774-0704.

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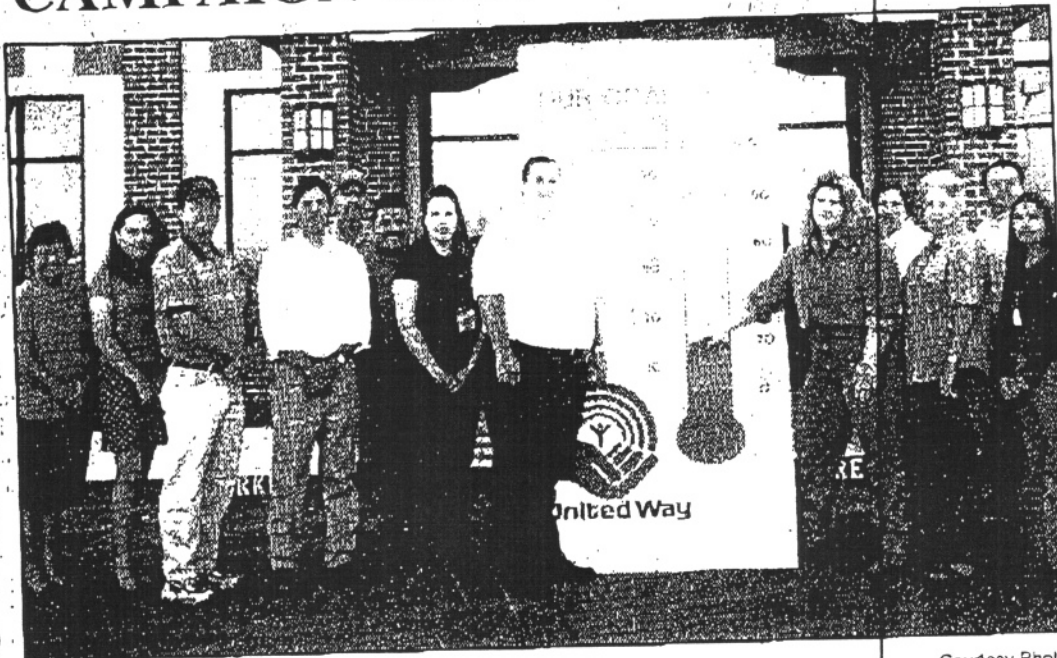
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CAMPAIGN KICK OFF



Courtesy Photo

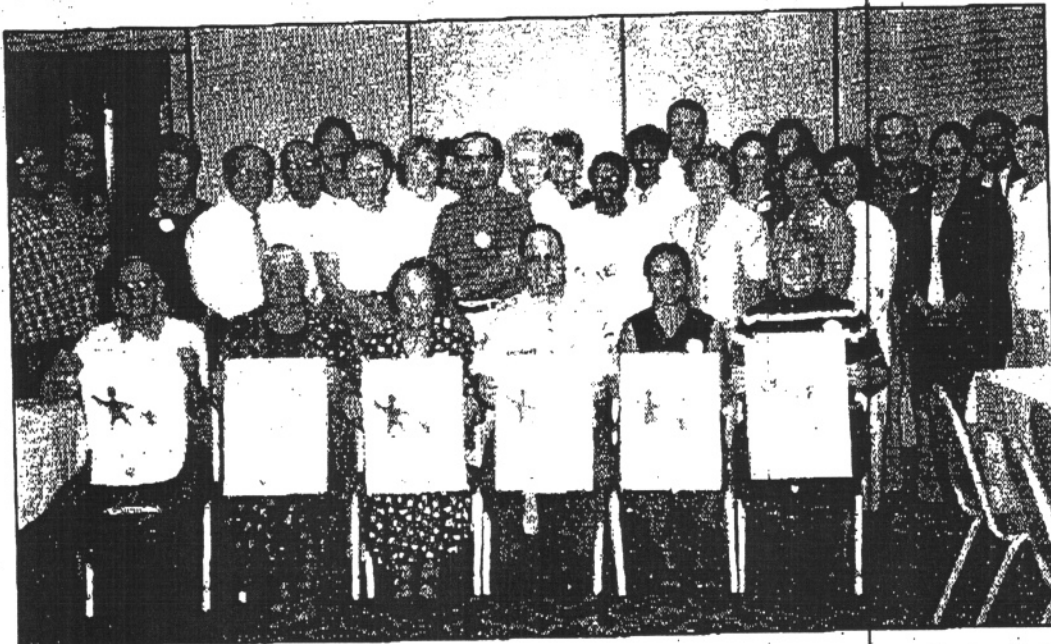
Moirá Graham, 2001 United Way Assistant Campaign Chair, marking sign, and Scott Knight, manager of Luby's Cafeteria, left of sign, along with other United Way board members and Pacesetter Representatives mark the tote board to kick off the citywide United Way campaign.

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TRAINING SESSION



Courtesy Photo

Pictured are two United Way representatives and United Way board members who recently held a training session for the citywide United Way campaign. United Way agencies will be out on the streets raising money and pledges for this year's campaign to fund local United Way agencies in the coming year.

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North Heights honors heroes

ALEJANDRA VALDEZ

Staff Writer

Jorge Garza, principal of North Heights Elementary School, has been moved by the worries and pains of his staff and students as they send loved ones to fight America's war on terrorism.

There are four trees near the main entrance to the North Heights School campus that now have yellow ribbons tied to them. The ribbons have been placed there to signify four members of the United States military with ties to North Heights, its staff and students.

The men are Eddie Amezcua, son of teacher Leticia Amezcua; Jerry Smith, husband of teacher Cathy Smith and father of Alex Smith, a North Heights student; Adrian Montero, the son of the school librarian, Patricia Ann Muñoz; and Adrian Almaguer, nephew of Vice-Principal Jenny Owens.

The idea for the ribbons came from Alpha Guzman, a member of the North Heights Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO).

"I thought, 'Yes, that is a fantastic idea,'" said Garza.

He said the ribbons will remain on the trees until the

military member to whom it is assigned has returned from duty related to the war against terrorism.

On Thursday, North Heights students held a dedication ceremony under ribbon-tied trees.

"It was quite emotional. These ribbons are for men who have been deployed to war. I'm a former Marine and I know about these situations first hand," Garza said.

"I explained to the kids the ceremony we're having is to remember those that are out there. That is the purpose of the yellow ribbons. I pointed to each tree and told them each ribbon belongs to one person, and that they will be back," Garza added.

"Some kids were reacting to it and, of course, the adults were. I have been going to the teachers and the classrooms. They need to explain to the kids why we are there at war and how it is affecting us. We're in a difficult situation and we need to pull together. We need to make these kids aware," said Garza.

Cathy Smith said of her husband, an Air Force master sergeant, "I haven't heard from him. He can't call or write or e-mail; he can't do any of that. I know he landed safely and that's it."

Smith explained it is military procedure not to disclose the location of the troops. "Alex and her brother are the strong ones," she said of her children.

Asked what she missed most about her father, 10-year-old Alex said, "I miss his hugs.. him. His voice is what I really miss. He always makes me smile."

She pointed at the yellow ribbon around the tree that now represents her father's vigil, and added, "He left two days after the incident, Sept. 13. It's scary."

Leticia spoke of her son, Cpl. Eduardo Amezcua, a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, who is said to be "on a boat."

"He has been in the Marines for two and a half years. He is stationed in Okinawa. I'm really appreciative of the support from the school and staff and principal. They are always asking do we know where they are. The answer is always the same - no - but it is a comfort."

In their awareness, the North Heights students also raised money for the American Red Cross and the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

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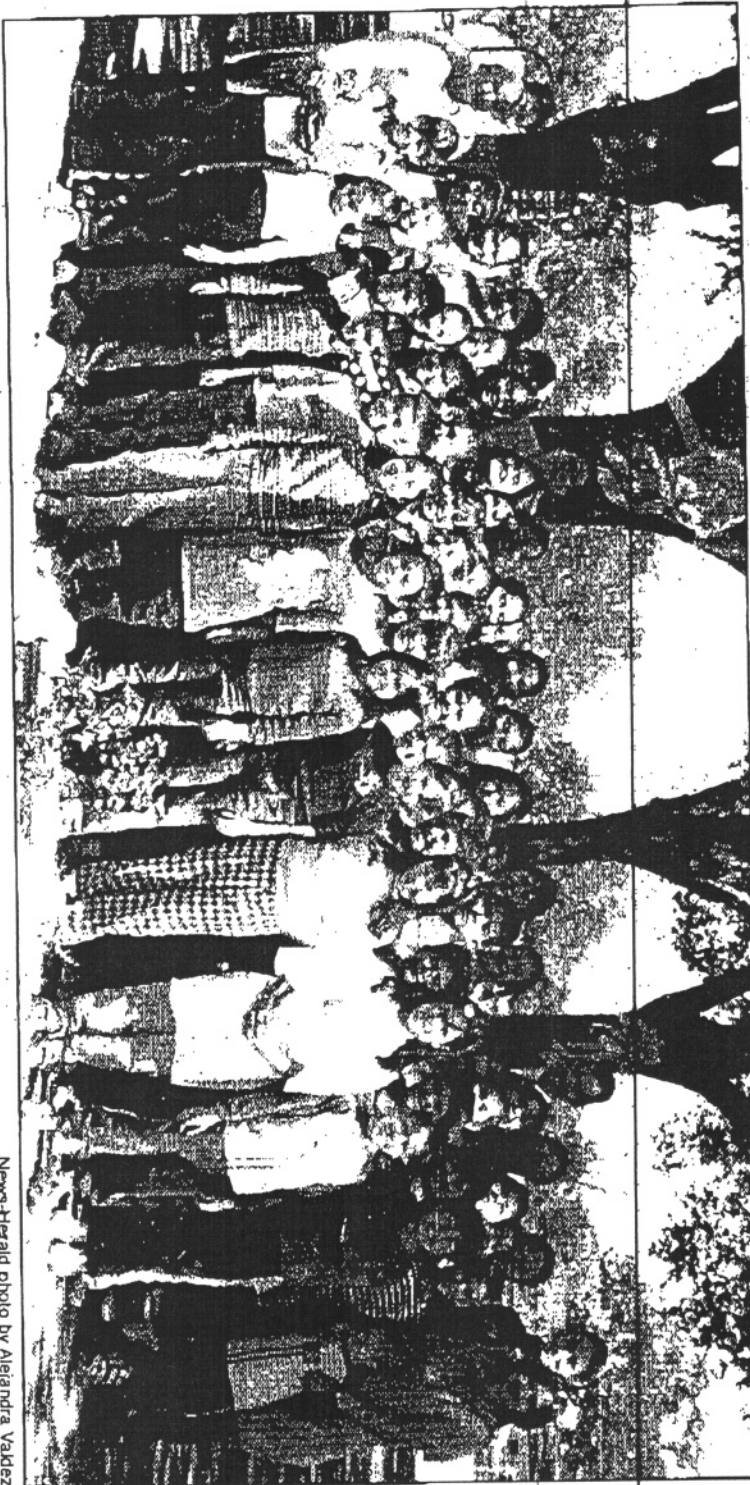
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North Heights students gathered under trees sporting yellow ribbons to remember four military men with ties to the staff and students at North Heights. Pictured with Cathy Smith and her class is Smith's daughter Alex, her class and teacher, Ricardo Perez, Leicia Amezcua and her class, Vice-Principal Jennie Owens, Principal Jorge Garza and Patricia Ann Muñoz, the school librarian.

News-Herald photo by Alejandra Valdez



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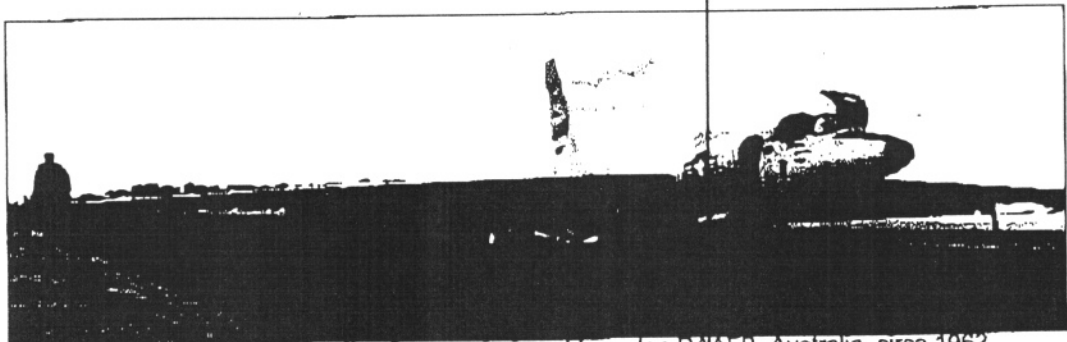
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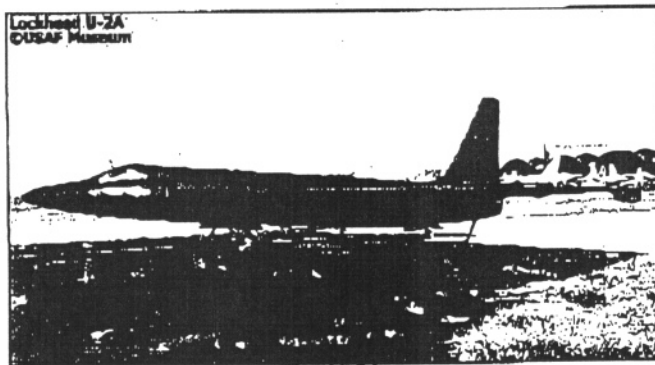


A Laughlin U-2 after landing from a mission at Laverton RAAF, Australia, circa 1962

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Laughlin officials will honor Cold War hero Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr. during a memorial and dedication ceremony at 3 p.m. Oct. 26.

A Soviet General Remembers the Cuban Crisis



The U-2A

Following the US-inspired armed invasion of Cuba by emigres in April 1961, Washington's imposition of an economic blockade on Cuba, and other US actions widely seen as threats to the Castro regime, Havana turned to the USSR for help in laying down a protective "screen" against possible US intervention. Khrushchev, supported by Defense Minister Malinovskiy, called for stationing Soviet intermediate-range missiles on the island. This was a response not only to the perceived US threat to Cuba, but also to the stationing of intermediate-range missiles in Europe (in Britain, Italy, and Turkey).

The Operations Training Complex will be renamed Anderson Hall in honor of one of the select few brave U-2 Spyplane pilots based at Laughlin from 1958 until 1963 who discovered Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba. Anderson, along with Major Richard S. Heyser flew the first two U-2 spy missions over Cuba at the onset of the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962. They brought back damning photos of the Soviet Union's urgent

To "equalize" the threat to the

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installation of Medium Range Ballistic Missiles (MRBM) pointed directly at the United States. Stationed only 150 miles to the Florida coast, these nuclear missiles could be launched and detonated on American cities with little or no warning. In a later reconnaissance flight over Cuba during the height of the crisis, Anderson's U-2 aircraft was downed by a Russian surface-to-air missile. He left behind 2 children, one more child on the way, and a grieving widow who never really recovered from Rudy's death. She died in the late 1980s of a broken heart. All U-2 missions during the Cuban Missile Crisis originated from Laughlin AFB. They were grueling 12+ hour missions to Cuba and back here, non-stop.



The patch of the 4080th SRW

After Laughlin AFB's U-2s returned with photo evidence, US President John Kennedy warned Soviet Premiere Nikita Khrushchev to remove the nuclear missiles from Cuba or face a naval blockade. Kennedy also indicated that any missile attack from Cuba would be treated as if the Soviet Union had attacked the US, which meant the US would retaliate in kind, with nuclear missiles. Khrushchev refused to remove the missiles and a US naval blockade of Cuba ensued. This event, from October 16th until October 28, 1962 is known as the "Cuban Missile Crisis". According to later testimonies of former Soviet Union and United States decision-makers, those thirteen days in October 1962 almost concluded with Armageddon.



Maj. Anderson

U-2 spy missions launched from Laughlin AFB continued throughout the crisis to continuously to verify the Soviet Union's refusal to remove the missiles. Anderson's plane, flying one of those subsequent

USSR posed by the US missiles in Europe; Moscow decided to install R-12 (SS-5) intermediate-range missiles in Cuba that were capable of hitting targets in the United States at a distance of up to 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles). The Soviets also began preparing an operation to send troops and Air Force and Air Defense units. A total of 40,000 Soviet officers and men and 42 R-12 missiles--plus 20 nuclear warheads for the missiles--were ultimately stationed on the island. Not surprisingly, the Soviets also implemented *maskirovka* (camouflage concealment) measures, but the deployment of combat equipment and troop contingents on such a large scale proved impossible to conceal.

The United States, in response, activated monitoring and intelligence collection systems. Prominent among these were U-2 reconnaissance aircraft, which began taking aerial photography of Cuban territory.

On 22 October 1962, President Kennedy announced the establishment of a naval blockade or "quarantine" of Cuba. The US sent 183 naval ships into the Caribbean. Ship commanders received instructions to search cargo vessels headed for the island--a violation of the rules of international law. Soviet vessels, meanwhile, were proceeding to Cuba as well. The US warships stood in their path. Tensions heightened. A common understanding existed on both sides that something irreparable could happen at any time.

The crisis reached its apogee on 27 October when the Soviets shot down a U-2 piloted by Major Rudolph Anderson while he was photographing missile positions in Cuba. (Major Anderson was fatally injured.) According to a Soviet Major General who

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missions on October 27th over Banes, Cuba was struck by a Soviet SA-2 high altitude surface-to-air missile. Later we learned that Soviet Premier Krushchev made specific instructions not to fire upon US reconnaissance planes. The SAM warhead detonated in close proximity to the U-2A and a small piece of shrapnel from it penetrated the cockpit and punctured Anderson's pressure suit causing him to become unconscious. Cubans recovered Anderson's body and returned it to the US at the end of the crisis as a bargaining chip in the final negotiations ending the crisis.



Francis Gary Powers in the pressure suits required for the missions at 72,000 feet.

President Kennedy personally ordered the USAF to posthumously award the Air Force Cross to Maj. Anderson because the photographs provided by Anderson were pivotal in resolving the crisis without invading Cuba or going to war with the Soviet Union. The Air Force Cross was a new award created on July 6, 1960 and Anderson was the first man to receive one two and a half years later.

The U-2 was developed in the 1950s as a high altitude reconnaissance platform to gather air samples and pictures from behind the Iron Curtain. The U-2 flew over some of the most heavily defended areas of the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China gathering vital intelligence. It was the U-2 that confirmed for the Eisenhower administration that the Russians were so far behind in their nuclear program that there was no "missile gap". The CIA originally recruited USAF fighter pilots from retiring fighter squadrons in the Strategic Air Command to fly it. One of the more famous CIA pilots was Francis Gary Powers. He was shot down near Moscow in a U-2 and he survived. His subsequent trial in the Soviet Union caused a major foreign policy challenge for the Eisenhower administration. He was later returned to the US in exchange for a Soviet spy.

Gary Powers was killed in retirement in a helicopter

worked for the commander of Soviet forces on the island, the decision to destroy the aircraft was made by Lieutenant General S. Grechko, who was at an Air Defense command post in Cuba. Grechko had first tried-- unsuccessfully--to reach his superiors by phone, presumably to consult with them before taking action against the U-2.

Shortly after Major Anderson's U-2 was downed, a message came from Moscow to its forces in Cuba, consisting of two sentences: "You were hasty. Ways of settlement have been outlined . . ." 6 In fact, the risk of escalation had been enormous. Soon after the shootdown, for example, the Defense Department proposed that the US immediately mount a strike against Cuba. President Kennedy rebuffed the proposal.

During the crisis I was ever-present at the central command post for Soviet Air Defense Forces. I vividly remember this extremely tense time. The entire Main Staff combat team was at combat readiness. Reports from the field, including those from the air defense units in Cuba, grew more alarming each day. Immediately after President Kennedy's announcement on 22 October, the number of US strategic bombers on airborne alert began to grow menacingly. Intelligence of all kinds was being produced and used with maximum intensity. Then, on the night of 27-28 October, President Kennedy's proposal for a withdrawal of Soviet missiles from Cuba in exchange for a guarantee of US non-intervention in the island's internal affairs was discussed, and a settlement was soon announced by Kennedy and Khrushchev, bringing sighs of relief on both sides.

Soviet Colonel (retired)

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crash in the late 1970s. He was reporting traffic conditions in Los Angeles for a local television station at the time. Francis Gary Power's son, Francis Gary Powers, Jr. founded the Cold War Museum in 1998 to memorialize the events of the Cold War and pay tribute to Cold Warriors like his father, Anderson, and thousands of other unsung heroes of the Cold War.

Alexander Orlov is a professor and a member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences. He spent most of his military career with the USSR's Air Defense Forces, retiring in 1988. The rest of his article is here.



Hired and then hired by Lockheed where the CIA secretly paid his salary. Powers was employed for years. Finally he worked as a broadcast pilot in Los Angeles. In August 1977, his helicopter crashed and he was killed.

Gary Powers in retirement

The U-2 program was completely turned over to the Strategic Air Command (SAC) by the end of 1963. SAC moved the U-2s from Laughlin AFB to Davis-Monthan AFB near Tucson in July 1963. SAC's U-2 missions over Cuba continued until the late 1960s by deployed aircraft at a temporary duty station at Barksdale AFB, near Shreveport, LA. A completely redesigned (and larger) version of the U-2 still flies today, and most likely is seeing action in Afghanistan right now. The U-2S is based out of Beale AFB in northern California. U-2S's are not used for photo reconnaissance much these days unless it is real-time. The U-2s today are equipped with electronic eavesdroppers and other instrumentation to deliver real-time assessment of the battlefields and items of interest in dangerous parts of the world.

The U-2 program at Laughlin AFB has been chronicled by Hollywood. In the early 1980s, a television drama "Call to Glory" highlighted the life and times of the U-2 pilots the support personnel in Del Rio. Last year a major motion picture chronicling President Kennedy and his cabinet's handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis, named

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Thirteen Days starring Kevin Costner and Bruce Greenwood, was released. It's available in video stores and pay Per View today.

As a side note, Eisenhower had never seen a U-2 in person until he visited Del Rio in 1960 to work out the agreement with Mexico to build the Amistad Dam. After the international negotiations were completed, Eisenhower was treated to a personal tour at Laughlin AFB of the spyplane that caused his administration so much grief.

The Operations Training Complex at Laughlin to be named Anderson hall is the home to all flying training squadrons at Laughlin. Every student pilot and instructor pilot walks through the doors of what will be named Anderson Hall. Dedicating this important building to one of Laughlin's fallen heroes is a significant honor not only to the Anderson family, but also to the men who flew beside Anderson and those that performed the important support functions that the U-2 program, and ultimately our country's survival, relied upon.

Attending the event will be two of the Anderson's three children, along with the son of another famous U-2 pilot, Francis Gary Powers Jr., and former members of the 4080th Strategic Wing who were assigned to Laughlin. An U-2S from the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., will fly overhead to start the ceremony. Gary Powers, Jr. will present Laughlin's Wing Commander with a piece of Anderson's U-2 plane's wreckage that was recovered from Cuba last year to display in Anderson Hall.

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Francis Gary Powers, Jr.'s Cold War Museum

U-2A on display at Wright-Patterson USAF Museum

The CIA's declassified report on the U-2 program 1954-1974

Peering over the edge of Eternity: Living through history with the U-2 Spyplanes at Laughlin

Peering over the edge of Eternity, Part II: Tragedy! Everything is changed forever.

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